



## Tip of the

### Prevention Information from CSAP's Western Center for the Application of Prevention Technologies

Julie Hogan, Ph.D., Director

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#### CSAP's Core Measures Initiative Online

By: Robert McArdle, CAPT Coordinator  
Edited by Ken Smith, M.P.H., Project Manager

WWW.PREVENTIONDSS.ORG

CSAP's Prevention Decision Support System (DSS) offers an ever increasing number of science based tools for prevention professionals. Among those currently available is the Core Outcome Measures tool.

The Core Outcome Measures online tool allows prevention professionals to select Risk Factors, Protective Factors and other constructs that are targeted for outcomes—and then provides survey instruments to measure them. For example, if a program's goal is to "Reduce Favorable Attitudes Towards Drugs", you can download surveys that measure it.

To find this tool, go to **www.preventiondss.org** and select the "**Evaluation**" tab of the DSS. Look for the "**Outcome Evaluation Toolbox**". In that toolbox you will find:



#### CSAP's Core Outcome Measures

Within this tool, you will first see a description of the Core Outcome Measures—and can then link directly to it by following the prompts to the "**CMI Viewer**". Once there, you simply select the prevention domain (ATOD Use, Individual/Peer, School, Family, Community) and then select the

construct you wish to measure (for example "Attitudes Toward Use").

After selecting the construct you wish to measure, instruments will pop up that you can select from. In this instance, 2 scales that measure Attitudes Toward Use are available from **Monitoring the Future Survey** and from **Student Survey of Risk and Protective Factors**.

Select the scale you wish to look at, and it appears with background information describing the scale's reliability and validity, and other information.

You can either download or cut/copy the scales into a word document and you are on your way to creating a science based pre-post test to measure program outcomes. This feature allows you to select and download multiple scales so that with one instrument you can measure each of the Risk Factors and Protective Factors you are targeting for change.

**KEEP IN MIND: Scales must be kept intact, and cannot be changed nor modified, or the research behind them may be invalidated.**

It is always best to consult your evaluator and seek their advice and assistance when developing your evaluation plan and instruments to measure change.

While CSAP's Core Outcome Measures tool on the DSS will not replace the need for qualified evaluators, it does simplify the process of identifying and building survey instruments through this interactive and fun-to-use web-based tool, and best of all it's free!

For more information on the Core Outcome Measures tool or the Prevention DSS, contact your regional Coordinator at 888-734-7476.

The six regional CAPTs are funded by the Center for Substance Abuse Prevention in the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. For more information on this Tip of the CAPT or other Western CAPT services, please visit our web site: **www.westcapt.org** or our best practices website: **www.open.org/westcapt**.

**Our toll-free office number is: (888) 734-7476**